

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6205

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GENEVA FOR PHELAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, XX

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE NOTES

REF: A. STATE 183677; B. STATE 174725; C. MANILA 10081;
D. MANILA 10224

1. REFTEL A REQUESTS EMBASSY TO SEEK GOP CONCURRENCE TO DRAFT NOTE, BEING POUCHED, TO EFFECT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING INITIALED ON JUNE 28, 1975. HOWEVER, EMBASSY AND GOP ARE ALSO AWAITING REPLY TO REFTEL C WHICH ENUMERATES CLASSIFICATION PROBLEMS STILL TO BE RESOLVED. EMBASSY HAS BEEN RECEIVING SEVERAL CALLS EACH WEEK FROM UNDERSECRETARY PIO DE RODA, GOVERNOR SANCHEZ, OR CONCERNED INDUSTRY EXECUTIVES ON THIS SUBJECT. PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IS READY TO OFFICIALLY PROPOSE CHANGE BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AND NON-TRADITIONAL BREAKDOWN IN CATEGORY 223, IN RESPONSE TO INDUSTRY PRESSURE, AND AS WASHINGTON IS AWARE, STATISTICAL PROBLEMS EXIST IN CATEGORIES 218 AND 238.

2. WHILE WE ARE CONFIDENT U.S. FIGURES ARE ACCURATE, PHILIPPINE INDUSTRY IS EQUALLY CONFIDENT THAT ITS SHIPMENTS

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HAVE BEEN MISCLASSIFIED BY U.S. CUSTOMS. INDUSTRY IS

THEREFORE CONVINCED THAT LARGER QUOTA IS REQUIRED IN CATEGORIES 223, 218, AND 238 SIMPLY TO COVER EXISTING LEVEL OF SHIPMENTS. AS U.S. TEAM MEMBERS ARE AWARE, PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE UNWILLING TO BE VERY FAR IN FRONT OF THEIR INDUSTRY.

3. ON BASIS REFTEL B EMBASSY HAS ASSURED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT WASHINGTON RESPONSE WILL BE FORTHCOMING SOON ON STATISTICAL PROBLEMS, AND WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT FORMAL REQUEST FOR CHANGES IN CATEGORY LEVELS NOT BE MADE UNTIL STATISTICAL DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE. EMBASSY ASSUMES WASHINGTON RESPONSE WILL INDEED BE RECEIVED MOMENTARILY, BUT WE FELT IT ADVISABLE NEVERTHELESS TO REMIND WASHINGTON THAT GOP CONCURRENCE NOT OBTAINABLE UNTIL THIS MATTER RESOLVED. WOULD ALSO HOPE FOR PROMPT RESPONSE TO REFTEL D.
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